AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the 2nd Paragraph on page 3 with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

The TDM interface performs data transfer processing based on a periodically repeated time slot. In FIG. 22B, in the TDM layer, the label becomes the time slot. An example of a TDM interface is a DXC (data cross-connect) interface, which connects the time slot allocated on the input side and the time slot allocated on the output side, to form a TDM path, that is a SDH/SONET path. The link may be a wavelength path in some cases, or may simply be a fiber in other cases.